

## Section 2: The criminal event



This section presents an overview of crime in Colorado and the nation using data that addresses such questions as: What is a crime? What do crime rates really measure?

What is the difference between a felony and a misdemeanor? What are some common crimes?

Data from multiple sources are used to answer questions such as: When and where does most crime occur? What do we know about school crimes? What are the characteristics of the most serious crimes? What do we know about drug related crimes?

We also examine special topics such as crime victims, intimate partner violence, and family violence and sexual assault.

## The criminal event

### What is a crime?

Crimes are acts and behaviors defined by law for which a formally sanctioned punishment is specified. What is included in the definition of a crime varies across federal, state and local jurisdictions. Accurately and consistently defining a crime is the first step toward the goal of obtaining accurate crime statistics.

### How do violent and property crimes differ?

Violent crime refers to events such as homicide, rape and assault that may result in injury to a person. Robbery is also considered a violent crime because it involves the use or threat of force against a person.

Violent crimes account for approximately 22 percent of all crimes perpetrated against those over the age of 12, according to the 2005 National Crime Victimization Survey published by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Property crimes are unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the use or threat of force against an individual. Larceny, burglary and motor vehicle theft are examples of property crimes.

### Sources of crime reporting: UCR and NCVS

These two sources of crime information, UCR and NCVS, concentrate on measuring certain well-defined crimes. The UCR's Part One Index and the NCVS do not include all possible criminal events. Both data sources use commonly understood definitions rather than legal definitions of crime. The UCR data reflect crimes known to law enforcement and are typically reported by the FBI as "offenses" and "arrests." The NCVS data reflect crime victimization experiences of individuals over the age of 12 living in thousands of U.S. households. These two sources of crime information are described in detail below.

### The UCR Part One Index shows trends in eight major crimes.

In 1927, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) formed a committee to create a uniform system for gathering police statistics. The goal was to develop a national system of statistics that would overcome variations in the way crimes were defined in different parts of the country. The FBI's UCR program began in 1929 by collecting data on seven major crimes: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. Arson was added as the eighth UCR index offense in 1978. Crimes in the index were selected based on seriousness, frequency of occurrence and likelihood of coming to the attention of police, and are used as the basis for measuring crime.

Participation in the UCR Program is voluntary on the part of law enforcement agencies. In 2001, 90 percent of the U.S. population lived in UCR reporting districts.

UCR data are reported by local law enforcement agencies to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The CBI analyzes the data for its *Crime in Colorado* report and also transmits it to the FBI to be included in national statistics.

***Since crime is a sociological phenomenon influenced by a variety of factors, the FBI discourages data users from ranking agencies and using the data as a measurement of law enforcement effectiveness.***

### The NCVS

The National Crime Victimization Survey began in 1973 to provide information about crimes that might not be reported to police. It also was developed to provide detailed information from crime victims and victimization trends over time. The survey was significantly redesigned and updated in 1993 to improve the questions and broaden the scope of crimes measured.

The NCVS collects data twice each year from 42,000 households (or 76,000 people). Each household stays in the sample for three years, and new households are rotated into the sample on an ongoing basis. The U.S. Census Bureau conducts individual interviews on behalf of the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, the agency mandated to manage the Survey.

Thus, 160,000 interviews are conducted annually *of persons age 12 or older*. Crimes suffered by individuals and households—when those crimes were committed against victims age 12 and over—are the events counted by the NCVS.

The NCVS collects detailed information on the frequency and nature of the crimes of rape, sexual assault, personal robbery, aggravated and simple assault, household burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft. It does not measure homicide or commercial crimes (such as burglaries of stores). The information collected includes information about victims (age, sex, race, ethnicity, marital status, income, and education level), offenders when known (sex, race, approximate age and victim-offender relationship) and the crime (time, place, use of weapons, nature of injury and economic consequences). Questions include experiences of victims with the criminal justice system, and self-protective measures used by the victim.

The NCVS was designed to complement the UCR program, but the two sources of crime data have important

**Total serious violent crime**

The number of homicides recorded by police plus the number of rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults from the victimization survey whether or not they were reported to the police.

**Victimizations reported to the police**

The number of homicides recorded by police plus the number of rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults from the victimization survey that victims said were reported to the police.

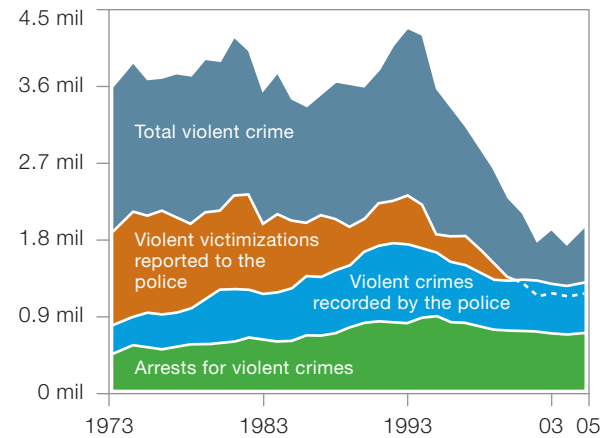
**Crimes recorded by the police**

The number of homicides, forcible rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults included in the Uniform Crime Reports of the FBI excluding commercial robberies and crimes that involved victims under age 12.

**Arrests for violent crimes**

The number of persons arrested for homicide, forcible rape, robbery or aggravated assault as reported by law enforcement agencies to the FBI.

Figure 2.1. Nationwide: Four measures of all violent crime



**Notes:** The serious violent crimes included are rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and homicide. Because of changes made to the victimization survey, data prior to 1992 are adjusted to make them comparable to data collected under the redesigned methodology. Estimates for 1993 and beyond are based on collection year while earlier estimates are based on data year.

**Source:** National Crime Victimization Survey and Uniform Crime Reports available at Bureau of Justice Statistics <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/cv2.htm>.

differences. The two programs measure an overlapping but non-identical set of crimes. The NCVS includes crimes both reported and not reported to law enforcement and it excludes crimes against children under the age of 12, whereas UCR data reflect only offenses reported to the police. Unlike the NCVS, the UCR data includes information on

homicide, arson, commercial crimes and crime against children under the age of 12. In addition, the NCVS is based on a sample and so a margin of error exists, as with all samples. The UCR includes actual counts of offenses reported by law enforcement jurisdictions.

Table 2.1. How do the UCR Part 1 Crime Index and the NCVS compare?

|                       | Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) Part 1 Index Crimes  | National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)  |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Offenses measured:    | Homicide<br>Rape<br>Robbery (Personal and Commercial)<br>Assault (Aggravated)<br>Burglary (Commercial and Household)<br>Larceny (Commercial and Household)<br>Motor Vehicle Theft<br>Arson | Rape/Sexual Assault<br>Robbery (Personal)<br>Assault (Simple and Aggravated)<br>Burglary (Household)<br>Larceny (Personal and Household)<br>Motor Vehicle Theft<br>Vandalism  |
| Scope:                | Crimes reported to police in most jurisdictions.   | Crimes reported and not reported to police; committed against victims age 12 or older; data are for the nation as a whole.  |
| Collection method:    | Police department reports to FBI.  | Survey interview. Data are obtained annually from a nationally representative sample of 77,200 households, comprised of nearly 134,000 persons on the frequency, characteristics and consequences of criminal victimization in the United States. |
| Kinds of information: | Crime counts, persons arrested, crime clearances, law enforcement officers killed and assaulted and characteristics of homicide victims.   | Details about victims (age, race, sex, education, income, and relationship to offender) and crimes (time and place of occurrence, whether reported to police, use of weapons, economic consequences).   |
| Sponsor:              | Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation   | Department of Justice, U.S. Census Bureau   |

**Note:** The UCR measures all reported crime; Part 1 of the Crime Index includes the offenses reported in this table.

**Source:** Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice.

## What are clearance rates?

To be included in crime statistics, the act must be reported to law enforcement. Not all crimes are reported to police agencies, and not all reported crime results in an arrest.

Consequently, crime statistics collected by law enforcement agencies typically fall into two categories: information on *known offenses* and *persons arrested* by police departments.

An offense is “cleared by arrest” or solved for crime reporting purposes when at least one person is (1) arrested, or (2) charged with the commission of the offense and turned over to the court for prosecution (whether following arrest, court summons, or police notice-to-appear). Also, although no physical arrest is made, a clearance by arrest can be claimed when the offender is a person under 18 years of age and is cited to appear in juvenile court or before other juvenile authorities.

Several crimes may be cleared by the arrest of one person, or the arrest of many persons may clear only one crime. Further, if several persons are involved in the commission of a crime and only one is arrested and charged, the crime is listed as cleared by arrest. If the other persons involved in the crime are arrested at a later date, no record will be made of a clearance by arrest since the offense was already cleared following the arrest of the first person.

The *number of offenses* and not the *number of persons* arrested are counted in the clearances recorded by law enforcement.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, approximately half of the nation’s violent crimes and between 16 and 18 percent of nonviolent crimes are cleared by arrest. These figures have remained stable for decades. In 2005, two out of three murders and 41 percent of rapes were

cleared by arrest but only 13 percent of burglaries and 13 percent of motor vehicle thefts were cleared.

Law enforcement agencies in the nation’s smallest cities, those with less than 10,000 inhabitants, had the highest percentage of clearances for several offense types— 58.6 percent of violent crimes, 43.8 percent of forcible rapes, 36.0 percent of robbery offenses, 65.1 percent of aggravated assaults, 16.4 percent of larceny-thefts, and 23.9 percent of motor vehicle thefts.

Colorado law enforcement agencies discontinued reporting clearance rates to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation in 1995. Clearance rates in Colorado are therefore only available from local agencies when those data are recorded.

## How much crime is therein Colorado?

In 2005, a total of 225,134 adult arrests were made by law enforcement agencies in Colorado, according to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. Another 47,596 arrests of juveniles occurred.

Between 2004 and 2005, the number of homicides decreased by almost 15 percent, numbering 170 victims. Seventy percent of the homicide victims were male; 73 percent of the perpetrators were male. The relationship between the victim and the perpetrator was unknown in 43 percent of homicide cases, but of those cases when the relationship was documented, the victim and the offender knew each other in 79 percent of the cases, according to the the Colorado Bureau of Investigation *Supplemental Homicide Report*. In 2005, 109 of the 170 victims were killed with a firearm and 28 were killed with a knife.

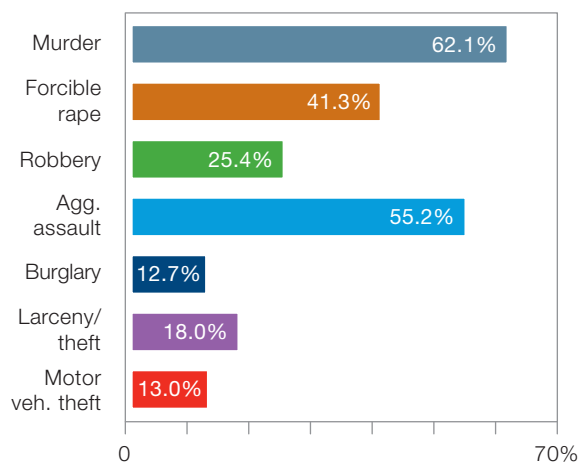
***Apart from homicide, all other index crimes increased in Colorado in 2005.*** Burglaries accounted for about 52 percent of the index crimes reported in Colorado, with nearly 34,000 reported in 2005. Motor vehicle thefts increased about 10 percent between 2004 and 2005, with more than 25,000 vehicles reported stolen.

Serious assault was the most common major offense reported in Colorado in 2005, followed by burglary. A total of 39,003 assaults and 33,750 burglaries were reported in Colorado in 2005, an increase from the prior year of 11.5 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively. Burglaries accounted for 51 percent of the major offenses reported to law enforcement, and half of these were forced entries.

## Where does most crime occur in Colorado and nationwide?

In 2005, the latest year for which data are available, about a quarter of incidents of violent crime occurred at or near the victim’s home.

Figure 2.2. FBI clearance rates, 2005



**Note:** In its calculations, the FBI’s Uniform Crime Report counts the number of offenses that are cleared, not the number of arrestees.

**Source:** *Crime in the United States 2005*. Department of Justice – Federal Bureau of Investigation, September 2006.

Common locales for violent crimes were on streets other than those near the victim's home (19 percent), at school (12 percent), or at a commercial establishment (8 percent).

About half occurred within a mile from home and 76 percent within five miles. Only 4 percent of victims of violent crime reported that the crime took place more than fifty miles from their home.

Twenty-two percent of victims of violent crime reported being involved in some form of leisure activity away from home at the time of their victimization. Twenty-two percent said they were at home, and another 19 percent mentioned they were at work or traveling to or from work when the crime occurred.

Source: [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/cvict\\_c.htm#place](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/cvict_c.htm#place).

### When does most crime occur?

Nationwide, in 2005, 53 percent of violent crimes occurred during the day. This is the same proportion of violent crimes occurring during the day that victims reported in 2003.

However, some crimes exhibited different patterns. For example, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), almost two-thirds of rapes/sexual assaults occurred at night – 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. One out of four sexual assaults occurred while the victim was at home according to this national data.

Source: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/cvictgen.htm>

### Is crime increasing or decreasing?

Overall, crime rates remain relatively low. Nationwide and in Colorado, crime in 2003 was at its lowest point since 1970. It can be expected that rates will increase following a period of significant decline. In the past few years in Colorado, serious crime rates varied somewhat. Homicide rates remained relatively stable since 1996, totalling between 150 and 200 per year, and decreasing between 2004 and 2005. But forcible rape rates generally increased in the past decade, as have motor

vehicle thefts. Burglary and robbery remained relatively stable over the past decade, increasing slightly in the past few years.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), law enforcement agencies nationwide reported an increase of 1.3 percent in the number of violent crimes brought to their attention in 2006 when compared to figures reported for 2005. The violent crime category includes murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The number of index property crimes in the United States from January to June of 2006 decreased 2.9 percent when compared to data from the same time period in 2005. Property crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. Arson is also a property crime, but data for arson are not included in property crime totals. Figures for 2006 indicate that arson increased 1.8 percent when compared to 2005 figures for the same time period.

### The violent crime rate remains at a near-historic low.

From 1960 to 1970, the national violent crime rate per 100,000 population (as measured by FBI index crimes of manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault) rose 126 percent. From 1970 to 1980 the violent crime rate rose 65 percent. From 1980 to 1990 it rose 23 percent. Then, between 1990 and 2001, it dropped 25 percent nationally, and by 50% in Colorado.

In Colorado, the overall crime rate has (index crimes reported to law enforcement), has increased about four percent overall in recent years. Property crimes in Colorado have increased about two percent but aggravated assault increased 17 percent between 2003 and 2005. The 2003 rate was at its lowest since 1972.

### In 2002 the U.S. violent crime rate was at the lowest level ever recorded.

The violent crime rate increased to a peak in 1981 interrupted only by a 1-year decline in 1980. For the following five years until 1986, the rate decreased. From 1986 to 1993

Table 2.2. FBI national crime rate percent change for consecutive years, 2002-2006

| Years     | Violent crime | Murder | Forcible rape | Robbery | Agg. assault | Property crime | Burglary | Larceny/theft | Motor veh. theft | Arson |
|-----------|---------------|--------|---------------|---------|--------------|----------------|----------|---------------|------------------|-------|
| 2003/2002 | -3.0          | +1.7   | -1.9          | -1.8    | -3.8         | -0.2           | +0.1     | -0.5          | +1.1             | -6.3  |
| 2004/2003 | -1.2          | -2.4   | +0.8          | -3.1    | -0.5         | -1.1           | -0.5     | -1.1          | -1.9             | -6.4  |
| 2005/2004 | +2.3          | +3.4   | -1.2          | +3.9    | +1.8         | -1.5           | +0.5     | -2.3          | -0.2             | -2.7  |
| 2006/2005 | +1.3          | +0.3   | -1.9          | +6.0    | -0.7         | -2.9           | +0.2     | -3.5          | -4.7             | +1.8  |

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 2006 Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report*, Table 3 available at <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/06prelim/ucrttable3.htm>.

Table 2.3. Colorado index crime rate: 1960-2005

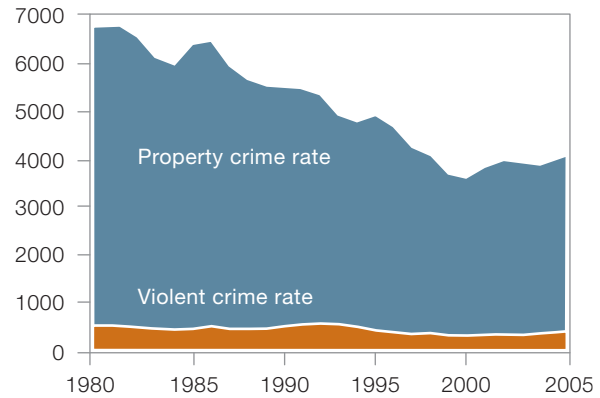
| Year | Population | Index offense rate* |
|------|------------|---------------------|
| 1960 | 1,753,947  | 2172.4              |
| 1961 | 1,781,000  | 2404.0              |
| 1962 | 1,907,000  | 2667.1              |
| 1963 | 1,961,000  | 2660.8              |
| 1964 | 1,966,000  | 2728.7              |
| 1965 | 1,969,000  | 2704.5              |
| 1966 | 1,977,000  | 3009.6              |
| 1967 | 1,975,000  | 3309.0              |
| 1968 | 2,048,000  | 3862.6              |
| 1969 | 2,100,000  | 4498.2              |
| 1970 | 2,207,259  | 5318.2              |
| 1971 | 2,283,000  | 5517.0              |
| 1972 | 2,357,000  | 5593.6              |
| 1973 | 2,437,000  | 5495.8              |
| 1974 | 2,496,000  | 6165.8              |
| 1975 | 2,534,000  | 6675.5              |
| 1976 | 2,583,000  | 6782.4              |
| 1977 | 2,619,000  | 6827.5              |
| 1978 | 2,670,000  | 6832.4              |
| 1979 | 2,772,000  | 7051.1              |
| 1980 | 2,878,407  | 7333.5              |
| 1981 | 2,963,000  | 7353.2              |
| 1982 | 3,045,000  | 7079.9              |
| 1983 | 3,139,000  | 6627.1              |
| 1984 | 3,178,000  | 6471.1              |
| 1985 | 3,231,000  | 6919.1              |
| 1986 | 3,267,000  | 7031.9              |
| 1987 | 3,296,000  | 6451.3              |
| 1988 | 3,290,000  | 6178.3              |
| 1989 | 3,317,000  | 6039.4              |
| 1990 | 3,294,394  | 6053.7              |
| 1991 | 3,377,000  | 6074.1              |
| 1992 | 3,470,000  | 5958.8              |
| 1993 | 3,566,000  | 5526.8              |
| 1994 | 3,656,000  | 5318.4              |
| 1995 | 3,747,000  | 5396.3              |
| 1996 | 3,823,000  | 5118.5              |
| 1997 | 3,893,000  | 4650.4              |
| 1998 | 3,971,000  | 4487.5              |
| 1999 | 4,056,000  | 4063.4              |
| 2000 | 4,301,261  | 3982.6              |
| 2001 | 4,417,714  | 4218.9              |
| 2002 | 4,501,051  | 4353.2              |
| 2003 | 4,547,633  | 4298.1              |
| 2004 | 4,601,821  | 4290.5              |
| 2005 | 4,665,177  | 4436.0              |

**Notes:** \*The index offense rate represents the violent and property crime rates. State offense totals are based on data from all reporting agencies and estimates for unreported areas. Rates are the number of reported offenses per 100,000 population.

**Source:** FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, prepared by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data available at <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>.

the rate of violent crime increased to a level slightly below the 1981 peak. A decline in the violent crime rate began in 1994 and continued through 2002 to the *lowest level ever recorded*. The crime rate, as recorded by local law enforcement agencies and reported to the FBI, has increased slightly in recent years but findings from the National Crime Victimization Survey show stable or slight declines across most crime types.

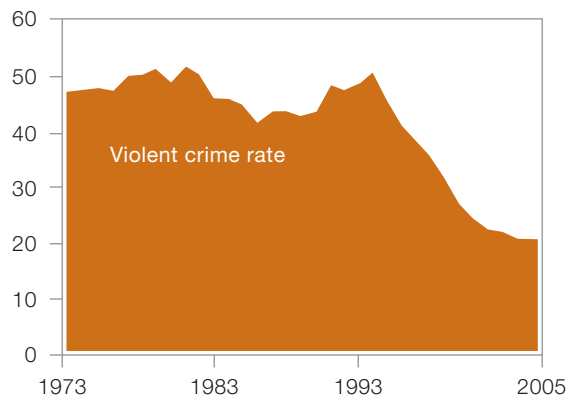
Figure 2.3. Colorado's violent vs. property crime rates, 1980-2005



**Notes:** State offense totals are based on data from all reporting agencies and estimates for unreported areas. Rates are the number of reported offenses per 100,000 population.

**Source:** FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, prepared by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data available at the Bureau of Justice Statistics Data Online <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>.

Figure 2.4. Nationwide: National Victimization Survey (NCS) violent crime trends, 1973-2005



**Notes:** Estimates for 1993 and beyond are based on collection year while earlier estimates are based on data year. Rape does not include sexual assault. Rates per 1,000 population.

**Source:** National Crime Victimization Survey and Uniform Crime Reports. Homicide rates for 2005 are estimated based on 2005 Preliminary Annual Release; data available at the Bureau of Justice Statistics <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/viort.htm>.

Table 2.4. Colorado violent crime rate: 1960-2005

| Year | Population | Violent crime rate | Murder and non-negligent manslaughter rate | Forcible rape rate | Robbery rate | Aggravated assault rate |
|------|------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1960 | 1,753,947  | 137.3              | 4.2  | 13.1               | 77.7         | 42.4                    |
| 1961 | 1,781,000  | 149.3              | 4.7  | 12.9               | 91.7         | 40.0                    |
| 1962 | 1,907,000  | 156.8              | 5.0  | 14.8               | 85.2         | 51.8                    |
| 1963 | 1,961,000  | 130.3              | 4.8  | 14.5               | 68.3         | 42.6                    |
| 1964 | 1,966,000  | 158.6              | 4.2  | 17.1               | 67.3         | 70.1                    |
| 1965 | 1,969,000  | 152.7              | 3.5  | 16.2               | 54.5         | 78.6                    |
| 1966 | 1,977,000  | 168.9              | 4.0  | 17.3               | 53.8         | 93.8                    |
| 1967 | 1,975,000  | 191.8              | 4.1  | 20.9               | 67.9         | 98.9                    |
| 1968 | 2,048,000  | 263.0              | 5.4  | 26.1               | 96.5         | 135.0                   |
| 1969 | 2,100,000  | 298.8              | 5.3  | 28.8               | 110.7        | 154.0                   |
| 1970 | 2,207,259  | 356.7              | 6.2  | 36.0               | 129.1        | 185.4                   |
| 1971 | 2,283,000  | 373.6              | 6.5  | 38.4               | 134.9        | 193.8                   |
| 1972 | 2,357,000  | 405.4              | 8.3  | 38.4               | 141.4        | 217.3                   |
| 1973 | 2,437,000  | 414.0              | 7.9  | 38.7               | 162.9        | 204.4                   |
| 1974 | 2,496,000  | 429.8              | 6.0  | 36.5               | 165.7        | 221.6                   |
| 1975 | 2,534,000  | 463.1              | 7.4  | 41.5               | 174.1        | 240.1                   |
| 1976 | 2,583,000  | 417.0              | 6.8  | 33.8               | 139.7        | 236.7                   |
| 1977 | 2,619,000  | 511.9              | 6.3  | 42.0               | 170.7        | 292.9                   |
| 1978 | 2,670,000  | 498.0              | 7.3  | 49.6               | 159.2        | 281.9                   |
| 1979 | 2,772,000  | 522.1              | 5.8  | 53.1               | 157.0        | 306.1                   |
| 1980 | 2,878,407  | 528.6              | 6.9  | 52.5               | 160.1        | 309.2                   |
| 1981 | 2,963,000  | 531.7              | 8.1  | 45.6               | 159.5        | 318.5                   |
| 1982 | 3,045,000  | 504.2              | 6.0  | 44.5               | 150.6        | 303.1                   |
| 1983 | 3,139,000  | 476.4              | 6.4  | 41.9               | 126.4        | 301.7                   |
| 1984 | 3,178,000  | 457.8              | 5.8  | 39.0               | 114.0        | 299.0                   |
| 1985 | 3,231,000  | 471.0              | 5.8  | 40.9               | 124.2        | 300.1                   |
| 1986 | 3,267,000  | 523.6              | 7.0  | 42.3               | 144.8        | 329.4                   |
| 1987 | 3,296,000  | 467.5              | 5.8  | 40.8               | 118.8        | 302.1                   |
| 1988 | 3,290,000  | 472.6              | 5.7  | 38.6               | 98.8         | 329.5                   |
| 1989 | 3,317,000  | 471.4              | 4.4  | 36.2               | 90.0         | 340.8                   |
| 1990 | 3,294,394  | 526.0              | 4.2  | 46.2               | 90.6         | 385.0                   |
| 1991 | 3,377,000  | 559.3              | 5.9  | 47.0               | 107.4        | 398.9                   |
| 1992 | 3,470,000  | 578.8              | 6.2  | 47.3               | 120.5        | 404.9                   |
| 1993 | 3,566,000  | 567.3              | 5.8  | 45.8               | 116.7        | 399.0                   |
| 1994 | 3,656,000  | 509.6              | 5.4  | 43.2               | 106.9        | 354.0                   |
| 1995 | 3,747,000  | 440.2              | 5.8  | 39.5               | 96.2         | 298.7                   |
| 1996 | 3,823,000  | 404.5              | 4.7  | 46.2               | 98.2         | 255.4                   |
| 1997 | 3,893,000  | 363.2              | 4.0  | 43.1               | 83.3         | 232.8                   |
| 1998 | 3,971,000  | 377.9              | 4.6  | 47.4               | 81.5         | 244.4                   |
| 1999 | 4,056,000  | 340.5              | 4.6  | 41.4               | 75.3         | 219.2                   |
| 2000 | 4,301,261  | 334.0              | 3.1  | 41.2               | 70.5         | 219.1                   |
| 2001 | 4,417,714  | 350.7              | 3.6  | 43.7               | 80.5         | 222.9                   |
| 2002 | 4,501,051  | 352.9              | 4.0  | 45.9               | 79.5         | 223.5                   |
| 2003 | 4,547,633  | 346.5              | 4.1  | 42.1               | 82.2         | 218.2                   |
| 2004 | 4,601,821  | 372.0              | 4.4  | 42.3               | 81.3         | 244.2                   |
| 2005 | 4,665,177  | 396.5              | 3.7  | 43.4               | 84.6         | 264.7                   |

**Notes:** State offense totals are based on data from all reporting agencies and estimates for unreported areas. Rates are the number of reported offenses per 100,000 population.

**Source:** FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, prepared by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data available at <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>.

Table 2.5. Offenses reported to law enforcement, by cities in Colorado with a population 100,000 and over, January-June 2006

| City             | Year | Population* | Violent crime | Murder | Forcible rape | Robbery | Agg. assault |
|------------------|------|-------------|---------------|--------|---------------|---------|--------------|
| Arvada           | 2005 | 103,983     | 196           | 2      | 23            | 52      | 119          |
|                  | 2006 | 105,932     | 193           | 0      | 31            | 42      | 120          |
| Aurora           | 2005 | 295,888     | 1,835         | 28     | 223           | 644     | 940          |
|                  | 2006 | 302,855     | 1,857         | 17     | 217           | 600     | 1,023        |
| Centennial       | 2005 | 99,607      | 217           | 3      | 33            | 38      | 143          |
|                  | 2006 | 100,100     | 180           | 0      | 25            | 36      | 119          |
| Colorado Springs | 2005 | 374,482     | 1,788         | 12     | 249           | 439     | 1,088        |
|                  | 2006 | 376,807     | 2,142         | 13     | 251           | 611     | 1,267        |
| Denver           | 2005 | 564,552     | 4,446         | 59     | 316           | 1,429   | 2,642        |
|                  | 2006 | 568,465     | 4,325         | 51     | 342           | 1,280   | 2,652        |
| Fort Collins     | 2005 | 128,727     | 442           | 2      | 118           | 57      | 265          |
|                  | 2006 | 130,446     | 493           | 0      | 76            | 36      | 381          |
| Lakewood         | 2005 | 143,259     | 674           | 5      | 96            | 187     | 386          |
|                  | 2006 | 143,331     | 702           | 4      | 98            | 176     | 424          |
| Pueblo           | 2005 | 105,057     | 681           | 8      | 22            | 162     | 489          |
|                  | 2006 | 105,452     | 627           | 5      | 49            | 170     | 403          |
| Thornton         | 2005 | 103,487     | 368           | 1      | 69            | 61      | 237          |
|                  | 2006 | 107,171     | 366           | 4      | 75            | 46      | 241          |
| Westminster      | 2005 | 106,211     | 319           | 2      | 27            | 72      | 218          |
|                  | 2006 | 107,071     | 285           | 5      | 37            | 53      | 190          |

| City             | Year | Population* | Property crime | Burglary | Larceny/ theft | Motor veh. theft | Arson** |
|------------------|------|-------------|----------------|----------|----------------|------------------|---------|
| Arvada           | 2005 | 103,983     | 3,877          | 524      | 2,772          | 581              | 46      |
|                  | 2006 | 105,932     | 3,198          | 538      | 2,300          | 360              | 13      |
| Aurora           | 2005 | 295,888     | 14,718         | 2,474    | 9,502          | 2,742            | 90      |
|                  | 2006 | 302,855     | 12,804         | 2,469    | 8,292          | 2,043            | 116     |
| Centennial       | 2005 | 99,607      | 2,021          | 421      | 1,400          | 200              | 28      |
|                  | 2006 | 100,100     | 1,618          | 340      | 1,122          | 156              | 37      |
| Colorado Springs | 2005 | 374,482     | 19,605         | 3,668    | 14,162         | 1,775            | 107     |
|                  | 2006 | 376,807     | 18,071         | 3,346    | 12,936         | 1,789            | 115     |
| Denver           | 2005 | 564,552     | 33,853         | 7,341    | 18,506         | 8,006            | 254     |
|                  | 2006 | 568,465     | 26,266         | 6,543    | 13,376         | 6,347            | 198     |
| Fort Collins     | 2005 | 128,727     | 4,434          | 764      | 3,239          | 431              | 21      |
|                  | 2006 | 130,446     | 4,570          | 701      | 3,585          | 284              | 24      |
| Lakewood         | 2005 | 143,259     | 8,445          | 1,273    | 5,738          | 1,434            | 27      |
|                  | 2006 | 143,331     | 6,995          | 1,182    | 4,710          | 1,103            | 24      |
| Pueblo           | 2005 | 105,057     | 6,981          | 1,525    | 4,978          | 478              | 54      |
|                  | 2006 | 105,452     | 6,317          | 1,453    | 4,409          | 455              | 55      |
| Thornton         | 2005 | 103,487     | 4,825          | 672      | 3,402          | 751              | 48      |
|                  | 2006 | 107,171     | 4,711          | 722      | 3,339          | 650              | 52      |
| Westminster      | 2005 | 106,211     | 5,165          | 710      | 3,494          | 961              | 12      |
|                  | 2006 | 107,071     | 4,355          | 649      | 3,115          | 591              | 16      |

Notes: \*The 2006 population figures are FBI estimates based on provisional data from the U.S. Census Bureau. \*\*The FBI does not publish arson data unless it receives 6 months data from either the agency or the state for 2005 and/or 2006.

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 2006 Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report*, Table 4 available at [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/06prelim/t4co\\_id.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/06prelim/t4co_id.htm).



## Characteristics of the most serious crimes

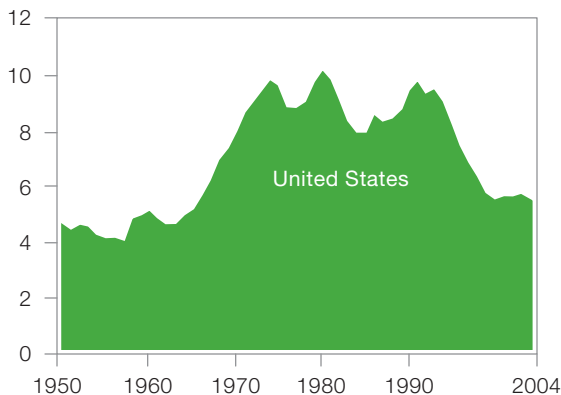
### Homicide

Causing the death of another person without legal justification or excuse.

#### Facts

- Homicide is the least frequent violent crime.<sup>1</sup>
- Homicide rates recently declined to levels last seen in the late 1960s. In fact, in 2000, the national homicide rate was at its lowest point since 1967.<sup>2</sup>
- Nationwide, the homicide rate has been declining since 1990. However, in 2006, murder increased 0.3 percent.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2005 there were 170 homicide victims in Colorado.

Figure 2.5. Homicide victimization, 1950-2004



**Note:** Rate per 100,000 population.

**Source:** FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, 1950-2004 available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/homicide/tables/totalstab.htm>.

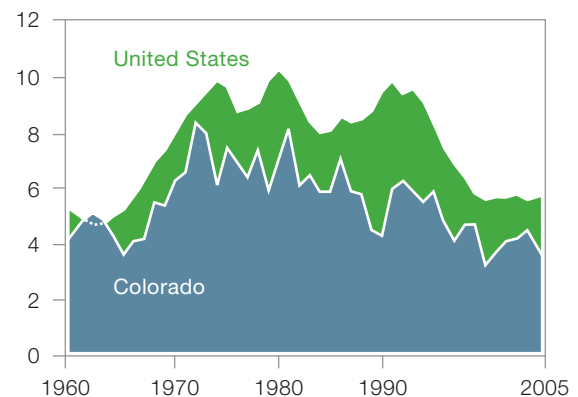
In Colorado, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator remained unknown or unreported in 43.5 percent of the 170 homicides reported to CBI in 2005. For cases when the relationship was known, about 19 percent were strangers.

**A special analysis of FBI data for the years 1976-2004 found that blacks are disproportionately represented as both homicide victims and offenders. The victimization rates for blacks were 6 times higher than those for whites. The offending rates for blacks were 7 times higher the rates for whites.**

**Source:** *Homicide trends in the United States* by James Alan Fox and Marianne W. Zawitz, available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/homicide/homtrnd.htm>

- About 33 percent of female murder victims compared to 4 percent of the males were killed by an intimate partner.
- In 2005, a firearm was used in 64 percent of Colorado homicides. A knife was used in 16 percent of homicides.
- Non-whites compared to whites are at a greater risk of being a homicide victim.
- Thirty-one percent of homicides followed arguments.
- Circumstances surrounding the crime were unknown for 42 percent of homicides.

Figure 2.6. Colorado and U.S. homicide rates, 1960-2005



**Notes:** Rates are the number of reported offenses per 100,000 population. State offense totals are based on data from all reporting agencies and estimates for unreported areas. The murder and nonnegligent homicides that occurred as a result of the events of September 11, 2001 are not included.

**Sources:** FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, prepared by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data available at Bureau of Justice Statistics <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StatebyState.cfm>.

<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, Key Facts at a Glance, available from <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, Key Facts at a Glance, available from <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 2006 Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report*, available at <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/06prelim/index.htm>.

Table 2.6. Colorado homicides: Offender race by victim race, 2005

|             |                 | Offender race |           |            |           |            |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
|             |                 | Asian         | Black     | White      | Unknown   | Total      |
| Victim race | American Indian | 0             | 2         | 0          | 0         | 2          |
|             | Asian           | 1             | 1         | 1          | 0         | 3          |
|             | Black           | 0             | 24        | 1          | 13        | 38         |
|             | White           | 0             | 13        | 86         | 25        | 124        |
|             | Unknown         | 0             | 8         | 26         | 5         | 39         |
|             | <b>Total</b>    | <b>1</b>      | <b>48</b> | <b>114</b> | <b>43</b> | <b>206</b> |

**Note:** There can be multiple victims and/or offenders involved in one incident, so the total number in the table exceeds the number of total homicides in 2005

**Source:** Colorado Bureau of Investigation, *Supplemental Homicide Report, 2005*.

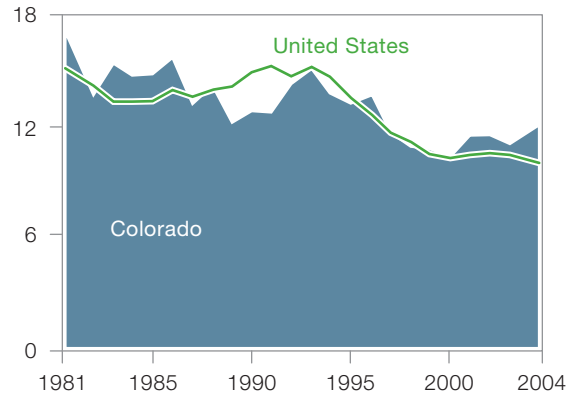
Table 2.7. Colorado homicides: Relationship of victim by weapon, 2005

|                        |                             | Weapon       |           |           |           |               |              |           |            |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
|                        |                             | Blunt object | Firearm   | Handgun   | Knife     | Motor vehicle | Other weapon | Unknown   | Total      |
| Relationship of victim | Acquaintance                | 1            | 10        | 16        | 7         | 1             | 3            | 15        | 53         |
|                        | Boyfriend/girlfriend        | 2            | 1         | 4         | 2         | 0             | 1            | 0         | 10         |
|                        | Child/stepchild             | 0            | 1         | 3         | 1         | 0             | 1            | 2         | 8          |
|                        | Friend                      | 0            | 0         | 1         | 1         | 0             | 0            | 1         | 3          |
|                        | Other family member         | 0            | 1         | 0         | 1         | 1             | 0            | 0         | 3          |
|                        | Parent/stepparent           | 1            | 0         | 1         | 2         | 0             | 1            | 0         | 5          |
|                        | Spouse/common law/ex-spouse | 0            | 4         | 13        | 2         | 0             | 2            | 0         | 21         |
|                        | Stepsibling                 | 0            | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0             | 1            | 0         | 1          |
|                        | Stranger                    | 1            | 5         | 4         | 3         | 0             | 2            | 3         | 18         |
|                        | Unknown                     | 3            | 24        | 21        | 9         | 2             | 5            | 20        | 84         |
|                        | <b>Total</b>                | <b>8</b>     | <b>46</b> | <b>63</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>4</b>      | <b>16</b>    | <b>41</b> | <b>206</b> |

**Note:** There can be multiple victims and/or offenders involved in one incident, so the total number in the table exceeds the number of total homicides in 2005.

**Source:** Colorado Bureau of Investigation, *Supplemental Homicide Report, 2005*.

Figure 2.7. Colorado and US firearm-related death rates, 1981-2004



**Note:** Rate per 100,000 population.

**Source:** National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System; available at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/>.

Table 2.8. Colorado's 10 leading causes of death by age group, 2004

| Rank | Age groups                       |                            |                            |                                       |                                       |                             |                             |  |   |   |   |
|------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---|---|
|      | <1                               | 1-4                        | 5-9                        | 10-14                                 | 15-24                                 | 25-34                       | 35-44                       | 45-54                                  | 55-64                                   | 65+                                       | All ages                                  |
| 1    | Congenital Anomalies<br>103      | Unintentional Injury<br>16 | Unintentional Injury<br>16 | Unintentional Injury<br>14            | Unintentional Injury<br>248           | Unintentional Injury<br>217 | Unintentional Injury<br>274 | Malignant Neoplasms<br>593             | Malignant Neoplasms<br>1,131            | Heart Disease<br>4,876                    | Malignant Neoplasms<br>6,196              |
| 2    | Short Gestation<br>57            | Homicide<br>7              | Malignant Neoplasms<br>9   | Suicide<br>11                         | Suicide<br>103                        | Suicide<br>133              | Malignant Neoplasms<br>168  | Heart Disease<br>377                   | Heart Disease<br>627                    | Malignant Neoplasms<br>4,216              | Heart Disease<br>6,079                    |
| 3    | SIDS<br>45                       | Congenital Anomalies<br>4  | Congenital Anomalies<br>2  | Malignant Neoplasms<br>7              | Homicide<br>56                        | Malignant Neoplasms<br>54   | Suicide<br>168              | Unintentional Injury<br>280            | Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease<br>196 | Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease<br>1,628 | Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease<br>1,899 |
| 4    | Maternal Pregnancy Comp.<br>29   | Septicemia<br>3            | Heart Disease<br>2         | Heart Disease<br>3                    | Malignant Neoplasms<br>16             | Homicide<br>47              | Heart Disease<br>139        | Suicide<br>198                         | Unintentional Injury<br>161             | Cerebro-vascular<br>1,403                 | Unintentional Injury<br>1,810             |
| 5    | Placenta Cord Membranes<br>20    | Heart Disease<br>2         | Homicide<br>2              | Homicide<br>3                         | Heart Disease<br>11                   | Heart Disease<br>29         | Liver Disease<br>56         | Liver Disease<br>137                   | Cerebro-vascular<br>121                 | Alzheimer's Disease<br>901                | Cerebro-vascular<br>1,638                 |
| 6    | Neonatal Hemorrhage<br>19        | Malignant Neoplasms<br>2   | Benign Neoplasms<br>1      | Cerebro-vascular<br>2                 | Congenital Anomalies<br>8             | Congenital Anomalies<br>10  | Homicide<br>35              | Cerebro-vascular<br>75                 | Liver Disease<br>100                    | Unintentional Injury<br>571               | Alzheimer's Disease<br>912                |
| 7    | Bacterial Sepsis<br>14           | Influenza & Pneumonia<br>1 | Influenza & Pneumonia<br>1 | Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease<br>2 | Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease<br>2 | Diabetes Mellitus<br>10     | HIV<br>33                   | Diabetes Mellitus<br>57                | Diabetes Mellitus<br>95                 | Influenza & Pneumonia<br>543              | Suicide<br>797                            |
| 8    | Circulatory System Disease<br>14 |                            | Menigitis<br>1             | Benign Neoplasms<br>1                 | Complicated Pregnancy<br>2            | Cerebro-vascular<br>8       | Cerebro-vascular<br>27      | Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease<br>55 | Suicide<br>95                           | Diabetes Mellitus<br>506                  | Diabetes Mellitus<br>696                  |
| 9    | Intrauterine Hypoxia<br>14       |                            |                            | Diabetes Mellitus<br>1                | Influenza & Pneumonia<br>2            | Liver Disease<br>8          | Diabetes Mellitus<br>27     | Viral Hepatitis<br>36                  | Influenza & Pneumonia<br>41             | Atherosclerosis<br>428                    | Influenza & Pneumonia<br>637              |
| 10   | Unintentional Injury<br>13       |                            |                            | Influenza & Pneumonia<br>1            | Anemias<br>1                          | HIV<br>6                    | Viral Hepatitis<br>13       | HIV<br>32                              | Septicemia<br>35                        | Nephritis<br>343                          | Atherosclerosis<br>445                    |

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System available at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/>.

Table 2.9. Percent change of firearm related deaths in the United States, 1999-2004

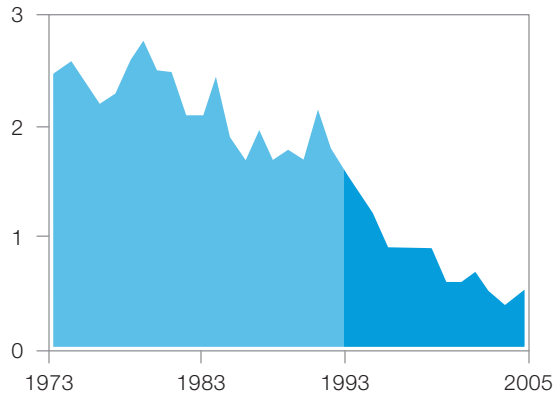
| State         | 2004 Death rate | Percent Change | State           | 2004 Death rate | Percent Change | State                | 2004 Death rate | Percent Change |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Massachusetts | 3.1             | 4.2%           | Washington      | 9.2             | -8.4%          | North Carolina       | 13.2            | -7.1%          |
| Hawaii        | 3.5             | -6.3%          | Utah            | 9.2             | 6.7%           | Kentucky             | 13.3            | 1.8%           |
| Rhode Island  | 4.5             | -29.4%         | Illinois        | 9.3             | -20.0%         | Oklahoma             | 13.5            | -12.4%         |
| New Jersey    | 4.7             | 19.4%          | California      | 9.4             | 1.4%           | South Carolina       | 13.7            | -1.6%          |
| Connecticut   | 5.0             | -16.0%         | Pennsylvania    | 9.9             | 5.7%           | West Virginia        | 14.1            | 1.2%           |
| New York      | 5.4             | -8.4%          | Kansas          | 10.5            | 7.1%           | Wyoming              | 14.8            | -26.4%         |
| New Hampshire | 6.3             | -8.6%          | Texas           | 10.6            | 1.2%           | Montana              | 15.0            | -1.5%          |
| Minnesota     | 6.4             | 17.3%          | Michigan        | 10.7            | -5.4%          | Tennessee            | 15.0            | -1.9%          |
| Iowa          | 6.7             | -4.6%          | Oregon          | 10.9            | -6.5%          | Arkansas             | 15.3            | 0.9%           |
| Maine         | 7.8             | -8.0%          | Florida         | 11.0            | -0.5%          | New Mexico           | 16.0            | -5.3%          |
| North Dakota  | 8.0             | 3.3%           | Virginia        | 11.1            | -7.1%          | Arizona              | 16.1            | -4.5%          |
| Nebraska      | 8.2             | -20.4%         | <b>Colorado</b> | <b>11.2</b>     | <b>12.3%</b>   | Alabama              | 16.6            | -15.9%         |
| Wisconsin     | 8.2             | -10.7%         | Indiana         | 11.2            | -8.8%          | Mississippi          | 17.1            | -10.8%         |
| Delaware      | 8.5             | 3.1%           | Maryland        | 11.7            | -5.6%          | Nevada               | 17.2            | -13.3%         |
| Ohio          | 8.6             | 9.3%           | Idaho           | 12.0            | 7.2%           | Alaska               | 17.3            | 26.3%          |
| South Dakota  | 8.7             | 2.7%           | Missouri        | 12.4            | -9.8%          | Louisiana            | 18.5            | 14.6%          |
| Vermont       | 9.1             | 4.1%           | Georgia         | 13.2            | -13.3%         | District of Columbia | 29.1            | -9.8%          |

Note: Rate per 100,000 population. Source: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System; available at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/>.

## Forcible rape

Unlawful sexual penetration by force or without legal or factual consent regardless of the victim's age, or not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent. Only forcible rapes where the victim is a female are counted under this category.

Figure 2.8. National rape rates: National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1973-2005



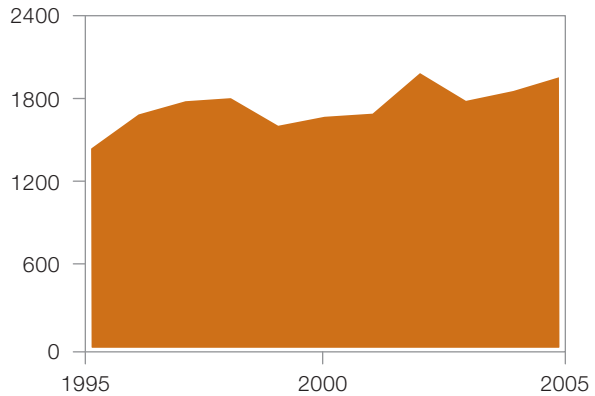
**Note:** The National Crime Victimization Survey redesign was implemented in 1993; the area with the lighter shading is before the redesign and the darker area after the redesign. The data before 1993 are adjusted to make them comparable with data collected since the redesign. Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 and over.

**Source:** National Crime Victimization Survey, *Criminalization Victimization, 2005*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/rape.htm>.

## Facts

- A 1998 confidential survey of a sample of 1,802 Colorado men and women by the Department of Public Health and Environment found that 14 percent of women and 2 percent of men reported experiencing a completed rape at some point in their life.<sup>4</sup>
- The 1998 Colorado study estimated that fewer than 16 percent of rapes were reported to law enforcement.
- According to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation's *Crime in Colorado, 2005*, a total of 1,971 forcible rapes were reported by law enforcement agencies in Colorado in 2005, a 5.4% increase in forcible rapes over 2004.
- Forcible rape accounted for 3.0% of the major offenses reported in Colorado in 2005.
- 1,797 or 91.2% of the rapes were reported as completed forcible rapes, and 174 or 8.8% of the rapes were reported as attempted offenses.<sup>5</sup>

Figure 2.9. Colorado forcible rape offenses, 1995-2005



**Source:** *Crime in Colorado, 2005*, at <http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/major%20crime/rape.htm>.

- The *National Violence Against Women (NVAW)* study found that 21.6 percent of rape victims were younger than age 12 when they were first raped, and 32.4 percent were ages 12 to 17.<sup>6</sup>
- In the NVAW, 19.1 percent of women and 12.9 percent of men who were raped *since their 18th birthday* said their rape was reported to the police.
- The *Rape In America* study found that only 22 percent of the women were raped by strangers:<sup>7,8</sup>
  - 9 percent were raped by a husband or ex-husband
  - 11 percent were raped by their father / stepfather
  - 10 percent were raped by a boyfriend
  - 16 percent were raped by other relatives

<sup>5</sup> *Crime in Colorado, 2005*, available at <http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/major%20crime/rape.htm>.

<sup>6</sup> Tjaden, P. and Thoennes, N. (2006). *Extent, Nature and Consequences of Rape Victimization: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey*, National Institute of Justice and the Center for Disease Control. Research in Brief from the National Institute of Justice. Report available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Report NCJ 210346.

<sup>7</sup> Kilpatrick, D.G., Edmunds, C.N., & Seymour, A. (1992). *Rape in America: A Report to the Nation*. National Center for the Victims of Crime Center and the Medical University of South Carolina Treatment Center. Charleston, South Carolina.

<sup>8</sup> Tjaden, P. and Thoennes, P. (2000). *Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey*, National Institute of Justice and the Center for Disease Control. Report available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Report NCJ 183781.

<sup>4</sup> Colorado Sexual Assault Prevention Program and the Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (1999). *Sexual Assault in Colorado: Results of a 1998 Statewide Survey*. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Injury Epidemiology Program, Denver, Colorado.

- 29 percent were raped by other non-relatives
- 3 percent refused to answer

In a study by trained interviewers, 4,023 adolescents were asked about a range of sexual acts including unwanted penetration and sexual touching. The sexual assault prevalence rate in this study of adolescents was 1.8 for lifetime victimization. Other lifetime rape prevalence rates reported by adolescents were as follows:<sup>9</sup>

- Whites: 6.7 percent
- Blacks: 13.1 percent
- Hispanics: 10.0 percent
- Native Americans: 15.7 percent
- Asians: 6.5 percent
- Girls: 13.0 percent
- Boys: 3.4 percent

In addition, 74% of the adolescent victims reported that the crime involved someone they knew:

- 32.5 percent friends
- 21.1 percent family members (fathers or stepfathers, brothers or step, sisters or step, grandparents, other relatives)
- 23.2 percent strangers

Most of the assaults occurred in the victim's home or neighborhood:

- 30.5 percent in victim's home
- 23.5 percent in victim's neighborhood
- 15.4 percent at victim's school

***The National Violence Against Women (NVAW) study found that 3 percent of total rapes resulted in a conviction and 2 percent of total rapes resulted in incarceration (Tjaden and Thoennes, 2006).***

Only 13 percent of the adolescents reported the sexual assault to the police. In some cases, reports were made to multiple authorities: 5.8 percent reported that officials at

child protective services were notified, 5 percent told school authorities, and 1.3 percent reported to other authorities. Overall, however, 86 percent did not report the assault.

***Only 13 percent of the adolescents interviewed reported the sexual assault to the police.***

## Robbery

Unlawful taking or attempted taking of property that is in the immediate possession of another, by force or threat of force.

### Facts

- Between 2004 and 2005, robbery rates increased 4.4 percent nationally<sup>10</sup> and 6.4 percent in Colorado.<sup>11</sup> Then in 2006, national robbery rates increased 6.0 percent.<sup>12</sup>
- The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) found the victimization rate (per 1,000 persons age 12 or older) was 2.1 in 2004 and 2.6 in 2005.<sup>13</sup>
- Robberies accounted for 5.9 percent of the major offenses reported in Colorado in 2005.<sup>14</sup>
- A firearm was used in 42.3 percent of Colorado robberies in 2004, a notable increase from 2003 when a firearm was used in one-third of the robberies.<sup>15</sup>
- Nationwide in 2005, most robberies (44.1 percent) were committed on streets or highways.<sup>16</sup>
- According to the FBI, the average dollar value of property stolen per robbery offense in 2005 was \$1,230. By location type, bank robbery had the highest average dollar value taken – \$4,169 per offense.

<sup>10</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2005*, available at [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table\\_12.html](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table_12.html).

<sup>11</sup> Colorado Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in Colorado 2005*, available at <http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k3/default.htm>.

<sup>12</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 2006 Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report*, available at <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/06prelim/index.htm>.

<sup>13</sup> Catalano, S.M. (2006). *Criminal Victimization, 2005*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice. Report available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Report NCJ 214644.

<sup>14</sup> Colorado Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in Colorado 2005*, available at <http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k3/default.htm>.

<sup>15</sup> Colorado Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in Colorado 2005*, available at <http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k3/default.htm>.

<sup>16</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigations *Crime in the United States 2005*, available at <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/03cius.htm>.

<sup>9</sup> Kilpatrick, D.G., Saunders, B.E., and Smith, D.W. (2003). *Youth Victimization: Prevalence and Implications*. National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice. Report available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Report NCJ 194972.

- The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) found that about 52 percent of robberies were reported to police in 2005; 70 percent of women reported the crime compared to 46 percent of men. Robberies involving strangers were reported by 48 percent whereas those involving non-strangers were reported by 71 percent of victims.<sup>17</sup>
- The NCVS found robbery was less likely to have been reported to the police when the victim thought the offender was a gang member.<sup>18</sup>
- After increasing for a few years in the early 1990s, the assault (which includes aggravated and simple assault, and intimidation) rate in Colorado was lower in 2003 than it was in 1980. Between 2004 and 2005 in Colorado, the assault *offense* rate increased almost 10 percent while the *arrest* rate declined 17 percent.<sup>20</sup>
- The 2005 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) found that 62 percent of aggregated assaults and 42 percent of simple assaults were reported to police. Women were more likely than men to report assaults, and assaults resulting in injury were more likely to be reported than those without injury.<sup>21</sup>

## Assault

Unlawful intentional inflicting, or attempted inflicting, of injury upon the person of another. *Aggravated assault* involves serious bodily injury or unlawful threat or attempt to inflict bodily injury or death by means of a deadly dangerous weapon with or without actual infliction of injury. *Simple assault* is the unlawful intentional inflicting of less than serious bodily injury without a deadly or dangerous weapon or an attempt or threat to inflict bodily injury without a deadly weapon.

## Facts

- In looking at 2- and 10-year national trends, the FBI reported that the number of aggravated assaults in 2005 increased 1.8 percent from the 2004 figures but declined 16.8 percent from the 1996 figures.<sup>19</sup>

## Burglary

Unlawful entry of any fixed structure, vehicle, or vessel used for a residence, industry, or business, with or without force, with the intent to commit a felony or a theft.

## Facts

- Between 1994 and 2000, household burglaries decreased nationwide by over 40 percent. Between 2004 and 2005, burglaries increased about 1 percent nationally.<sup>22</sup>
- Household burglary victimizations remained stable between 2004 and 2005, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).<sup>23</sup>

Table 2.10. Aggravated assault and types of weapons used, percent distribution within region, 2005

| Region       | Total all weapons* | Firearms     | Knives or cutting instruments | Other weapons (clubs, blunt objects, etc.) | Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>100.0%</b>      | <b>21.0%</b> | <b>18.9%</b>                  | <b>35.1%</b>                               | <b>25.0%</b>                                |
| Northeast    | 100.0%             | 15.6%        | 20.4%                         | 33.3%                                      | 30.7%                                       |
| Midwest      | 100.0%             | 21.3%        | 17.0%                         | 33.1%                                      | 28.6%                                       |
| South        | 100.0%             | 22.7%        | 19.9%                         | 36.1%                                      | 21.3%                                       |
| West         | 100.0%             | 20.0%        | 17.6%                         | 35.1%                                      | 27.3%                                       |

**Note:** \*Due to rounding, the percentages may not add up to 100 percent.

**Source:** Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2005*.

<sup>17</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (2006). *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2005 Statistical Tables*. Table 93. Report available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Report NCJ 215244.

<sup>18</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (2003). *Special Report: Reporting crime to the police, 1992-2000*. Report available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Report NCJ 195710.

<sup>19</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, (2006). *Crime in these United States, 2005*. Available at [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/offenses/violent\\_crime/aggravated\\_assault.html](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/offenses/violent_crime/aggravated_assault.html).

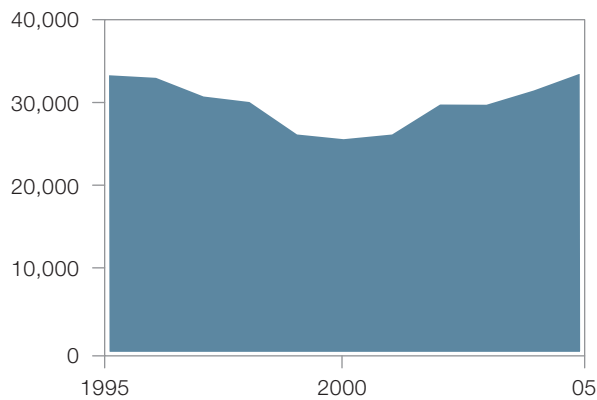
<sup>20</sup> Colorado Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in Colorado, 2005*. Available at [http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/state%20totals/statewide\\_offense\\_arrest.htm](http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/state%20totals/statewide_offense_arrest.htm).

<sup>21</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (2006). *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2005 Statistical Tables*. Table 93. Report available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Report NCJ 215244.

<sup>22</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, (2006). *Crime in these United States, 2005*. Available at [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table\\_15.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table_15.htm).

<sup>23</sup> Catalano, S.M. (2006). *Criminal Victimization, 2005*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice. Report available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Report NCJ 214644.

Figure 2.10. Colorado burglary offenses, 1995-2005



Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigation (2006). *Crime in Colorado 2005*.

- The burglary rate in Colorado in 2003 was one-third the rate it was in 1980, but the rate increased 6.5 percent between 2004 and 2005.<sup>24</sup>
- Burglary accounted for 52 percent of major crimes reported in Colorado in 2005. Forced entries accounted for half of the burglary reports; for the remainder of the burglaries, entry was unlawful but not forced.<sup>25</sup>
- The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) found that 56 percent of the nation's burglaries were reported to police in 2005; 75 percent of victims reported burglaries with forced entry while 47 percent reported burglaries without forced entry.<sup>26</sup>

**Burglary accounted for 52 percent of major crimes reported in Colorado in 2005. Forced entries accounted for half of the burglary reports; for the remainder of the burglaries, entry was unlawful but not forced.**

### Larceny-theft

Unlawful taking or attempted taking of property other than a motor vehicle from the possession of another, by stealth,

without force and without deceit, with intent to permanently deprive the owner of the property. Larceny includes pocket picking and purse snatching.

### Facts

- Larceny and theft rates in Colorado went down by 36 percent between 1980 and 2002; between 2004 and 2005 rates increased 3.7 percent.<sup>27</sup>
- Nationally, from 2004 to 2005 the rate of larceny-thefts declined 3.2 percent. Between 1996 and 2005, the rate declined 23.3 percent.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2005, the FBI reported that the average value for property stolen during the commission of a larceny-theft was \$764 per offense.

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- Nationwide, two-thirds of all property crime involved theft and larceny.<sup>29</sup>
- The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) found that 32 percent of completed thefts are reported to police. As the value of the loss increases, victims are more likely to report the crime to police: 53 percent of victims with a loss greater than \$250 reported the crime to law enforcement.<sup>30</sup>
- Just over one-fourth (29 percent) of the Anglo victims in the NCVS survey and 20 percent of the Black respondents told researchers that they did not report the crime because the object was recovered or the offender was otherwise unsuccessful.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Colorado Bureau of Investigation (2006). *Crime in Colorado: 2005*. Available at <http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/major%20crime/burglary.htm>.  
<sup>25</sup> Colorado Bureau of Investigation (2006). *Crime in Colorado: 2005*. Available at <http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/major%20crime/burglary.htm>.  
<sup>26</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (2006). *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2005 Statistical Tables*. Table 93a.

<sup>27</sup> Colorado Bureau of Investigation (2006). *Crime in Colorado: 2005*. Available at [http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/state%20totals/statewide\\_offense.htm](http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/state%20totals/statewide_offense.htm).  
<sup>28</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, (2006). *Crime in these United States, 2005*. Available at [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/offenses/property\\_crime/larceny-theft.html](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/offenses/property_crime/larceny-theft.html).  
<sup>29</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, (2006). *Crime in these United States, 2005*. Available at [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/offenses/property\\_crime/larceny-theft.html](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/offenses/property_crime/larceny-theft.html).  
<sup>30</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (2006), *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2005 Statistical Tables*, Table 93a. Report available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Report NCJ 215244.  
<sup>31</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (2006), *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2005 Statistical Tables*. Table 105. Report available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Report NCJ 215244.

### Motor vehicle theft

Unlawful taking or attempted taking of a self-propelled road vehicle owned by another, with the intent of depriving the owner of it permanently or temporarily.

#### Facts

- In 2005 in Colorado, 25,315 motor vehicle thefts were reported to law enforcement, an 8.4 percent increase over the prior year.
- Motor vehicle thefts (MVT) accounted for 38.9 percent of the major offenses reported in Colorado.
- Automobiles accounted for 81 percent of the vehicles stolen, and trucks or buses accounted for 12 percent of the vehicles stolen (1 percent were classified as “other vehicle”) in Colorado.<sup>32</sup>
- Nationwide, MVTs in 2005 decreased slightly when compared with data for 2004.<sup>33</sup> It decreased 4.7 percent in 2006.<sup>34</sup>
- The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) found victimization rates for MVTs per 1,000 households to be at its lowest rate (8.4) in 2005 since the year that the survey commenced, in 1973 (19.1).<sup>35</sup>

**The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) found victimization rates for MVTs per 1,000 households to be at its lowest rate (8.4) in 2005 since the year that the survey commenced, in 1973 (19.1).**

- The highest crime reporting rate by victims is for completed MTVs (versus attempted MTVs): in 2005, 92.4 percent of victims reported the crime to police, according to the National Crime Victimization Study.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Colorado Bureau of Investigation (2006). *Crime in Colorado: 2005*. Available at [http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/major%20crime/motor\\_vehicle\\_theft.htm](http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/major%20crime/motor_vehicle_theft.htm).

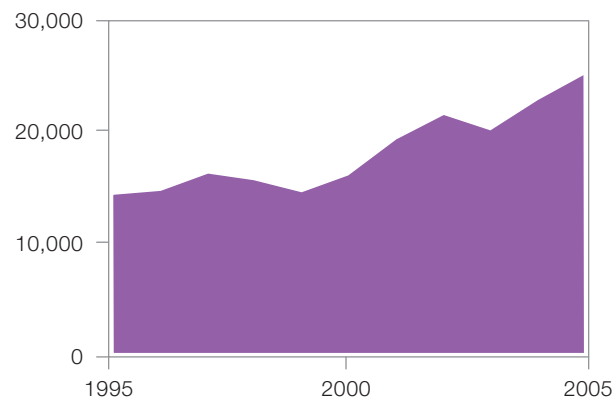
<sup>33</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, (2006). *Crime in these United States, 2005*. Available at [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/offenses/property\\_crime/motor\\_vehicle\\_theft.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/offenses/property_crime/motor_vehicle_theft.htm).

<sup>34</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 2006 Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report*, available at <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/06prelim/index.htm>.

<sup>35</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (2006). *National Crime Victimization Survey: Property Crime Trends, 1973-2005*. Available from <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/tables/proprtdtab.htm>.

<sup>36</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (2006), *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2005 Statistical Tables*. Table 93a. Report available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Report NCJ 215244.

Figure 2.11. Colorado motor vehicle theft offenses, 1995-2005



Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigation (2006). *Crime in Colorado 2005*.

**The highest crime reporting rate by victims is for completed MTVs (versus attempted MTVs): in 2005, 92.4 percent of victims reported the crime to police, according to the National Crime Victimization Study.**

### Arson

Intentional damaging or destruction or attempted damaging or destruction by means of fire or explosion of the property without the consent of the owner, or of one’s own property or that of another by fire or explosives with or without the intent to defraud.

According to the Insurance Information Institute, great strides have been made in fighting arson over the past two decades. Church arson is classified as a federal crime and a coalition of federal agencies are allied against church arson. More fire fighters and police officers have basic training in arson detection than they did in decades past. Insurers have set up a computerized database of property claims to help identify suspicious fires and insurance companies have special units to investigate suspected arson. State laws now allow a free exchange of information between insurers and law enforcement agencies eliminating the threat of civil suits for libel or violation of privacy. New computer modeling programs enable fire investigators to better understand the dynamics of arson fires.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>37</sup> From <http://www.iii.org/media/hottopics/insurance/test1/>.



## Facts

- Nationwide, arsons involving structures (residential, storage, public, etc.) accounted for 43.6 percent of the total number of arson offenses. Mobile property was involved in 29.0 percent of arsons. The rest were arsons of other types of property.<sup>38</sup>
- According to the FBI, the average value loss per arson offense in 2005 was \$14,910. Arson of industrial and manufacturing structures resulted in the highest average dollar losses (an average of \$356,324 per arson).
- Nationally, in 2005, the number of arson offenses declined 2.7 percent when compared to arson data from the previous year according to the FBI, and increased 1.8 percent in 2006.<sup>39</sup>
- According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in 2005 there were 31,500 intentionally set structure fires, down 13.7 percent from the prior year. In 1996 there were 52,500 such fires.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2005 intentionally set structure fires cost \$664 million in property damage, down 7 percent from \$714 million in 2004. These fires killed 315 civilians, according to NFPA.<sup>41</sup>
- The loss of property due to arson crimes in Colorado in 2005 was estimated at \$4,134,222.00, a significant decrease from \$10,457,470.00 in 2003.<sup>42</sup>
- In Colorado, anyone can call 89-ARSON to reach the arson hotline 24-hours a day to provide tips to help arson investigators.
- Arson crimes are hard to solve—nationwide, only 18 percent of cases were cleared (closing a case either by an arrest or by a preponderance of the evidence) in 2005.<sup>43</sup>
- Vandalism is the leading cause of arson. An Insurance Research Council study suggests only 14 percent of arson suspects are motivated by a desire to defraud an insurance company but other studies find it higher. Between 20 and 25 percent of arson fires are drug-related.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, (2006). *Crime in these United States, 2005*. Available at [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/offenses/property\\_crime/arson.html](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/offenses/property_crime/arson.html).

<sup>39</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 2006 Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report*, available at <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/06prelim/index.htm>.

<sup>40</sup> From <http://www.iii.org/media/hottopics/insurance/test1/>.

<sup>41</sup> From <http://www.iii.org/media/hottopics/insurance/test1/>.

<sup>42</sup> Colorado Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in Colorado, 2005*. Available at [http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/supplemental\\_reports/arson.htm](http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/supplemental_reports/arson.htm).

<sup>43</sup> From <http://www.iii.org/media/hottopics/insurance/test1/>.

<sup>44</sup> From <http://www.iii.org/media/hottopics/insurance/test1/>.

- Children are responsible for almost half of the arson fires set in the United States.<sup>45</sup>

**Arson crimes are hard to solve – nationwide, only 18 percent of cases were cleared (closing a case either by an arrest or by a preponderance of the evidence) in 2005.**

Table 2.11. Colorado arson report, 2005

| Property classification  | Number of offenses | Value of property loss |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Single family            | 161                | \$1,776,501.00         |
| Multi family             | 61                 | \$484,513.00           |
| Storage facility         | 29                 | \$41,609.00            |
| Industrial/manufacturing | 1                  | \$488.00               |
| Commercial               | 35                 | \$371,194.00           |
| Community or public      | 65                 | \$51,798.00            |
| All other structures     | 63                 | \$330,586.00           |
| Motor vehicles           | 227                | \$637,636.00           |
| Other mobile property    | 13                 | \$64,258.00            |
| All other property       | 665                | \$375,639.00           |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>1,365*</b>      | <b>\$4,134,222.00</b>  |

**Note:** \*The total includes 45 attempted arsons. **Source:** Colorado Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in Colorado 2005 report* available at [http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/supplemental\\_reports/arson.htm](http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k5/supplemental_reports/arson.htm).

## Motives for Arson:

*Most industry observers point to profit as the primary motive for setting fires, and have commented on the increased use of arson by organized crime and drug dealers, according to the Insurance Information Institute. An Insurance Research Council study found that the most frequent motive for arson in the voluntary market for residential insurance was vandalism. Fifty-three percent of the fires the IRC studied cited vandalism as the motive behind setting the fires. Fraud was the motive in 14 percent of the fires, followed by revenge, accounting for 12 percent of the fires, concealment of another crime, 6 percent, and pyromania, a mental illness, accounted for 3 percent of the fires. Twelve percent cited other factors.<sup>46</sup>*

<sup>45</sup> From <http://www.iii.org/media/hottopics/insurance/test1/>.

<sup>46</sup> From <http://www.iii.org/media/hottopics/insurance/test1/>.

## Drug-related crime

Among state prisoners in 2004, according to a Bureau of Justice Statistics survey of prisoners, property (30 percent) and drug offenders (26 percent) were more likely to commit their crimes for drug money than were violent (10 percent) and public-order offenders (7 percent). In federal prisons property offenders (11 percent) were less than half as likely as drug offenders (25 percent) to report drug money as a motive in their offenses.<sup>47</sup>

- In 2004, 17 percent of state prisoners and 18 percent of federal inmates said they committed their current offense to obtain additional money to buy drugs. These percentages represent a slight increase for federal prisoners (16 percent in 1997) and a slight decrease for state prisoners (19 percent in 1997).

***In 2004, 17 percent of state prisoners and 18 percent of federal inmates said they committed their current offense to obtain additional money to buy drugs.***

- In 2004 nearly a third of state and a quarter of federal prisoners committed their offense under the influence of drugs, unchanged since the last survey of inmates undertaken in 1997.
- Among both state and federal prisoners, white inmates were at least 20 times more likely than black inmates to report recent methamphetamine use.<sup>48</sup>
- Female inmates (17 percent) were more likely than males (10 percent) to report use of methamphetamines in the month before their offense, according to the BJS survey.
- Violent offenders (6 percent) were half as likely to use methamphetamines as either drug (19 percent) or property (13 percent) offenders.
- Violent offenders in state prison (50 percent) were less likely than drug (72 percent) and property (64 percent) offenders to have used drugs in the month prior to their offense.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>47</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Drugs and Crime Facts*, available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/dcf/duc.htm#drug-related>.

<sup>48</sup> Mumola, C.J. and Karberg, J.C. (2006). *Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, NCJ 213530.

<sup>49</sup> Mumola, C.J. and Karberg, J.C. (2006). *Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, NCJ 213530.

***Among both state and federal prisoners, white inmates were at least 20 times more likely than black inmates to report recent methamphetamine use.***

Table 2.12. Victims' perception of the use of alcohol and drugs by violent offenders, 2004

| Perception          | Percent of victims of violent crime |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Alcohol only        | 18.4%                               |
| Alcohol and drugs   | 5.0%                                |
| Alcohol or drugs    | 1.1%                                |
| Drugs only          | 5.0%                                |
| No drugs or alcohol | 26.9%                               |
| Don't know          | 43.1%                               |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>100.0%</b>                       |

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2004*, Statistical Tables, Table 32, NCJ 213257, June 2006.

## Drug and alcohol use is common in criminal populations

- One in 4 violent offenders in prison in 2004 committed their offenses while they were under the influence of drugs.<sup>50</sup>
- Drug offenders (44 percent) were most likely to have committed their crimes while using drugs, followed by property offenders (39 percent), according to the BJS survey.
- Half of drug dependent or abusing inmates in state prisons reported three or more prior sentences, according to the BJS survey.
- Drug dependent or abusing inmates in state prisons (14 percent) were twice as likely as other inmates (6 percent) to report being homeless during the year before admission to prison. They also reported lower levels of employment in the month prior to admission (68 percent compared to 78 percent of other inmates).

<sup>50</sup> Mumola, C.J. and Karberg, J.C. (2006). *Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, NCJ 213530.

Table 2.13. Prevalence of drug dependence or abuse symptoms among state prisoners, 2004

| Abuse symptoms  | Percent of state prison inmates in BJS survey |
|---|---|
| <b>Failure to fulfill major role obligations</b><br>Lose job; job/school problems, such as missing too much work/school, being demoted at work, dropping out of school; not taking care of children | 26.3%   |
| <b>Continued use in hazardous situations</b><br>Used in situations that increased chances of getting hurt, like driving, swimming, using machinery or walking in unsafe area                        | 34.4%   |
| <b>Drug-related legal problems</b><br>Arrested or held by police due to drug use  | 23.2%   |
| <b>Recurrent social or interpersonal problems</b><br>Arguments/problems/physical fights with spouse, intimate, family or friends  | 44.7%   |
| Dependence symptoms   | Percent of state prison inmates in BJS survey |
| <b>Tolerance</b><br>Usual drugs had less effect; or used more drugs to get the wanted effect  | 33.7%   |
| <b>Withdrawal</b><br>Bad aftereffects from cutting down or stopping drugs, such as shaking, feeling nervous, anxious, sick to stomach, or taking drugs to get over any bad after effects            | 28.6%   |
| <b>Compulsive use</b><br>More drug use or using for longer periods than intended  | 32.2%   |
| <b>Impaired control</b><br>More than once wanted to cut down/tried to cut down but couldn't   | 32.4%   |
| <b>Time spent obtaining, using, recovering</b><br>Spent a lot of time using drugs or getting over the bad after-effects   | 29.7%   |
| <b>Neglect of activities</b><br>Gave up on activities of interest/importance, like work, school, hobbies, or associating with family and friends  | 26.5%   |
| <b>Continued use despite problems</b><br>Continued to use drugs even though it was causing emotional or psychological problems.   | 35.7%   |

**Note:** The BJS survey of prison inmates in 2004 included questions to measure the prevalence of substance dependence or abuse as defined in the *Diagnostic Statistical Manual-IV*.

**Source:** Mumola, C.J. and Karberg, J.C. (2006). *Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, NCJ 213530.

Table 2.14. Reported drug and alcohol use by high school seniors, 2006

| Substance     | Used within the last: 12 months* | Used within the last: 30 days |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alcohol       | 66.5                             | 45.3                          |
| Marijuana     | 31.5                             | 18.3                          |
| Other opiates | 9.0                              | 3.8                           |
| Stimulants    | 8.1                              | 3.7                           |
| Sedatives     | 6.6                              | 3.0                           |
| Tranquilizers | 6.6                              | 2.7                           |
| Cocaine       | 5.7                              | 2.5                           |
| Hallucinogens | 4.9                              | 1.5                           |
| Inhalants     | 4.5                              | 1.5                           |
| Steroids      | 1.8                              | 1.1                           |
| Heroin        | 0.8                              | 0.4                           |

**Note:** \*Including the last month.

**Source:** Press release: Teen drug use continues down in 2006, particularly among older teens; but use of prescription-type drugs remains high, University of Michigan News and Information Services, December 21, 2006.

## What do we know about victims of crime?<sup>51</sup>

- In 2005, 14 percent of the nation's households (16 million households) experienced one or more violent or property victimizations as measured by the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). These crimes included rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault committed against a household member age 12 or over.
- In 1994, 25 percent of all U.S. households experienced a violent or property crime. By 2002 the percentage of households victimized had dropped to 15 percent, and by 2005 it was 14 percent.
- In 2005, 18 percent of households headed by Hispanics experienced one or more crimes, compared to 13 percent of non-Hispanics.
- About 3 percent of households in 2005 had a member age 12 or older who experienced one or more violent crimes. Simple assault was the type of violent crime experienced by most households.
- In 2005, 12 percent of households had a member age 12 or older that experienced one or more property crimes. Crime measures were purse snatching and pocket picking, household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft. Theft was the most frequent type crime experienced.
- About 1 in 10 households in 2005 experienced property theft, the most frequently encountered property crime.
- Compared to other regions, households in the west were more likely to be victims of crimes measured by the NCVS.

### Who are victims of crime?

The risk of victimization depends on a combination of factors. Much of our understanding of victimization comes from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), an ongoing (since 1973) nationally representative survey of 77,200 households in which 134,000 individuals age 12 or older were interviewed. For the 2005 NCVS data presented here, the response rate was 90.7 percent for eligible households and 84.3 percent of eligible individuals. Violent crimes included in the report are rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault and simple assault. Property crimes

examined are burglary, motor vehicle theft, and property theft. The survey is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Census Bureau.

- In general, the younger the person, the more likely they were to experience a violent crime.<sup>52</sup>
- The FBI's Uniform Crime Report shows that in 2005, 88% of murder victims were age 18 or older. Of all murder victims, 45 percent were 20 to 34 years old.
- In 2005, per every 1,000 persons in that racial group, 27 blacks, 20 whites and 14 persons of other races sustained a violent crime.
- Black, white, and other races experienced about the same rates of rape/sexual assault.
- Hispanic households had motor vehicle theft rates at 19 per 1,000 compared to 7 per 1,000 for non-Hispanics, according to the 2005 NCVS.
- In 2005, households with an annual income less than \$7,500 were burglarized at rates higher than those of households with larger incomes.
- Persons in households with an annual income of less than \$7,500 have higher rates of assault than persons in households with higher income levels.
- Men were twice as likely as women to be the victim of a carjacking in 2005.

**Hispanic households had motor vehicle theft rates of 19 per 1,000 compared to 7 per 1,000 for non-Hispanics, according to the 2005 NCVS.**

<sup>51</sup> Klaus, P. (2007). *Crime and the Nation's Households, 2005*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice. Report available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Report NCJ 217198.

<sup>52</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Victim Characteristics*, available at [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/cvict\\_v.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/cvict_v.htm).

Table 2.15. U.S. violent crime rates by age of victim, 1973-2005

|      | Age of victim |       |       |       |       |       |     |
|------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
|      | 12-15         | 16-19 | 20-24 | 25-34 | 35-49 | 50-64 | 65+ |
| 1973 | 81.8          | 81.7  | 87.6  | 52.4  | 38.8  | 17.2  | 9.1 |
| 1974 | 77.5          | 90.6  | 83.5  | 58.6  | 37.5  | 15.5  | 9.5 |
| 1975 | 80.3          | 85.7  | 80.9  | 59.5  | 36.9  | 17.8  | 8.3 |
| 1976 | 76.4          | 88.8  | 79.7  | 61.5  | 35.9  | 16.1  | 8.1 |
| 1977 | 83.0          | 90.2  | 86.2  | 63.5  | 35.8  | 16.8  | 8.0 |
| 1978 | 83.7          | 91.7  | 91.1  | 60.5  | 35.8  | 15.0  | 8.4 |
| 1979 | 78.5          | 93.4  | 98.4  | 66.3  | 38.2  | 13.6  | 6.2 |
| 1980 | 72.5          | 91.3  | 94.1  | 60.0  | 37.4  | 15.6  | 7.2 |
| 1981 | 86.0          | 90.7  | 93.7  | 65.8  | 41.6  | 17.3  | 8.3 |
| 1982 | 75.6          | 94.4  | 93.8  | 69.6  | 38.6  | 13.8  | 6.1 |
| 1983 | 75.4          | 86.3  | 82.0  | 62.2  | 36.5  | 11.9  | 5.9 |
| 1984 | 78.2          | 90.0  | 87.5  | 56.6  | 37.9  | 13.2  | 5.2 |
| 1985 | 79.6          | 89.4  | 82.0  | 56.5  | 35.6  | 13.0  | 4.8 |
| 1986 | 77.1          | 80.8  | 80.1  | 52.0  | 36.0  | 10.8  | 4.8 |
| 1987 | 87.2          | 92.4  | 85.5  | 51.9  | 34.7  | 11.4  | 5.2 |
| 1988 | 83.7          | 95.9  | 80.2  | 53.2  | 39.1  | 13.4  | 4.4 |
| 1989 | 92.5          | 98.2  | 78.8  | 52.8  | 37.3  | 10.5  | 4.2 |
| 1990 | 101.1         | 99.1  | 86.1  | 55.2  | 34.4  | 9.9   | 3.7 |
| 1991 | 94.5          | 122.6 | 103.6 | 54.3  | 37.2  | 12.5  | 4.0 |
| 1992 | 111.0         | 103.7 | 95.2  | 56.8  | 38.1  | 13.2  | 5.2 |
| 1993 | 115.5         | 114.2 | 91.6  | 56.9  | 42.5  | 15.2  | 5.9 |
| 1994 | 118.6         | 123.9 | 100.4 | 59.1  | 41.3  | 17.6  | 4.6 |
| 1995 | 113.1         | 106.6 | 85.8  | 58.5  | 35.7  | 12.9  | 6.4 |
| 1996 | 95.0          | 102.8 | 74.5  | 51.2  | 32.9  | 15.7  | 4.9 |
| 1997 | 87.9          | 96.3  | 68.0  | 47.0  | 32.3  | 14.6  | 4.4 |
| 1998 | 82.5          | 91.3  | 67.5  | 41.6  | 29.9  | 15.4  | 2.8 |
| 1999 | 74.4          | 77.5  | 68.7  | 36.4  | 25.3  | 14.4  | 3.8 |
| 2000 | 60.1          | 64.4  | 49.5  | 34.9  | 21.9  | 13.7  | 3.7 |
| 2001 | 55.1          | 55.9  | 44.9  | 29.4  | 23.0  | 9.5   | 3.2 |
| 2002 | 44.4          | 58.3  | 47.6  | 26.4  | 18.2  | 10.7  | 3.4 |
| 2003 | 51.6          | 53.1  | 43.5  | 26.5  | 18.6  | 10.3  | 2.0 |
| 2004 | 49.7          | 46.0  | 43.2  | 23.8  | 18.0  | 11.0  | 2.1 |
| 2005 | 44.0          | 44.3  | 47.1  | 23.7  | 17.6  | 11.4  | 2.4 |

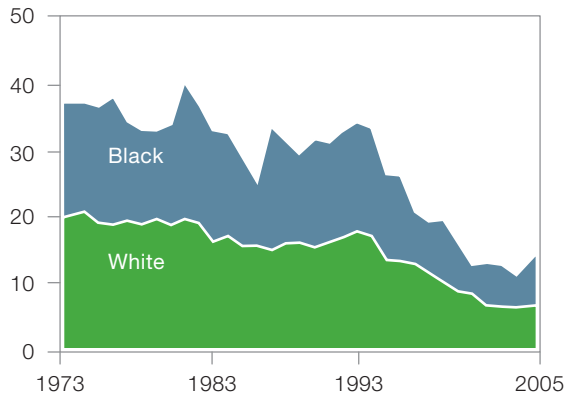
**Notes:** Rates per 1,000 population.

Violent crimes included are homicide, rape, robbery, and both simple and aggravated assault.

Because of changes made to the victimization survey, data prior to 1992 are adjusted to make them comparable to data collected under the redesigned methodology. Estimates for 1993 and beyond are based on collection year while earlier estimates are based on data year. Due to changes in the methods used, these data differ from earlier versions.

**Source:** Rape, robbery, and assault data are from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The homicide data are collected by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR). The National Crime Victimization Survey and Uniform Crime Reports are available at the Bureau of Justice Statistics <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/vage.htm>.

Figure 2.12. U.S. violent crime rates by race of victim, 1973-2005



**Notes:** Rates per 1,000 population.

Violent crimes included are homicide, rape, robbery, and both simple and aggravated assault.

Because of changes made to the victimization survey, data prior to 1992 are adjusted to make them comparable to data collected under the redesigned methodology. Estimates for 1993 and beyond are based on collection year while earlier estimates are based on data year. Due to changes in the methods used, these data differ from earlier versions.

**Sources:** Rape, robbery, and assault data are from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The homicide data are collected by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) *Supplementary Homicide Reports*, obtained from reports from law enforcement agencies. Homicide estimates for 2005 are based on 2005 Preliminary Annual Release data, available at the Bureau of Justice Statistics <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/race.htm>.

Table 2.16. Percent distribution of single-offender victimizations, based on race of victims, by type of crime and perceived race of offender, 2005

| Type of crime and race of victim     | Number of single-offender victimizations | Perceived race of the offender |       |       |                             | Total  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                                      |  | White                          | Black | Other | Not known and not available |        |
| <b>Crimes of violence</b>            |  |                                |       |       |                             |        |
| White only                           | 3,201,320                                | 49.0%                          | 13.5% | 9.8%  | 27.7%                       | 100.0% |
| Black only                           | 507,210                                  | 10.4%                          | 63.5% | 5.6%* | 20.5%                       | 100.0% |
| <b>Completed violence</b>            |  |                                |       |       |                             |        |
| White only                           | 916,130                                  | 51.2%                          | 14.3% | 9.8%  | 24.7%                       | 100.0% |
| Black only                           | 192,040                                  | 4.7%*                          | 69.7% | 0.0%* | 25.6%                       | 100.0% |
| <b>Attempted/threatened violence</b> |  |                                |       |       |                             |        |
| White only                           | 2,285,190                                | 48.0%                          | 13.2% | 9.8%  | 29.0%                       | 100.0% |
| Black only                           | 315,170                                  | 13.9%                          | 59.7% | 9.1%* | 17.3%                       | 100.0% |

**Note:** \*Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

**Source:** U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2005 Statistical Tables*, table 42, available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/cvusst.htm>.

Table 2.17. Percent distribution of multi-offender victimizations, based on race of victims, by type of crime and perceived race of offender, 2005

| Type of crime and race of victim | Number of multiple-offender victimizations | Perceived race of the offender |           |           |             | Not known and not available | Total  |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                                  |  | All white                      | All black | All other | Mixed races |                             |        |
| <b>Crimes of violence*</b>       |  |                                |           |           |             |                             |        |
| White only                       | 717,230                                    | 38.8%                          | 20.6%     | 10.9%     | 19.7%       | 10.0%                       | 100.0% |
| Black only                       | 267,750                                    | 4.4%**                         | 73.0%     | 1.2%**    | 14.0%       | 7.4%**                      | 100.0% |

**Note:** \*Includes data on rape and sexual assault, not shown separately.

\*\*Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

**Source:** U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2005 Statistical Tables*, table 48, available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/cvusst.htm>.